

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Hall County Government Offices  
Gainesville, Georgia  
March 27, 2014

MINUTES

The GMRC Executive Committee met on Thursday, March 27, 2014, 5:00 p.m. at the Hall County Government Offices in Gainesville, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Hall County Commission.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. The following members were present:

Executive Committee Present

Sam Norton, Chairman  
Dean Scarborough, Vice Chairman  
Mike Berg  
Bill Chafin  
Jim Conley  
Rex Farmer  
Leslie George  
David Stovall  
George Wangemann

GMRC Staff Present

W. Danny Lewis, Executive Director  
Peggy Lovell, Executive Assistant  
Kevin Tallant, Attorney  
Becky Sievers, Director of Finance  
Adam Hazell, Planning Director

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Norton asked for consideration of the minutes of the February 27, 2014 Executive Committee Meeting. Motion for approval of the minutes was made by Rex Farmer, seconded by Jim Conley, and motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Directors Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis reported that he was proud of the GMRC staff who assisted with the businesses in two of our cities that were affected by the two fires. The City of Clarkesville's fire destroyed seven businesses on the square which resulted in the loss of 50 jobs. City of Dahlonega also suffered a fire destroying two businesses and the loss of 30 jobs. The RC helped with a meeting of the players that could offer assistance with grants or loans to help get them back in business. Also, the RC had two Mobile Training Units (MTUs) on location to help with getting employees signed up for unemployment, develop resumes, and search for jobs.

Chairman Norton stated that he was proud of the RC, Workforce Development, along with the assistance of Department of Labor.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Organization of Ethics

Kevin Tallant, GMRC Attorney, reference the Organization of Ethics Resolution and Bylaws Amendment that was discussed at the February meeting. This document has been sent to the Council. Some minor grammatical changes have been done to the document. Danny Lewis stated that there were only three other RCs that were Organization of Ethics. Bill Chafin made a motion to approve and recommend the Organization of Ethics document to the Council. Leslie George seconded and motion carried unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Finance/Audit Committee Report

Bill Chafin, Finance/Audit Committee Chairman, informed the Executive Committee that the Auditor that has performed the Audit for the RC for a number of years has changed firms. Chris Edwards is now with McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Co., LLC, which is a larger firm in Macon. Mr. Edwards stated a letter sent to the RC, "We will continue to provide audit services for five years at the same rate plus an increase of no more than 4% per year afterwards". Mr. Chafin researched the new firm and they have a very good rating. Five or six RCs that Mr. Edwards had performed their audits have committed to going with him. For the sake of continuity, the Finance Committee recommends the Executive Director to sign the letter of engagement with McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks and Company and will revisit this next year. Motion was seconded by Lamar Paris and carried unanimously.

### Review of FY15 GMRC Budget

The Finance Committee has reviewed the FY15 Budget. This year's Workforce Development budget projects revenue for FY15 is 16% less than the current fiscal year due to the sequestration of the grants that end on June 30, 2015. This reduced the amount of carryover for FY15. WD also had a 5% across the board cut in funding on July 1, 2013. The projected budget for the remainder of the RC program will remain the same. The Finance Committee recommends a salary increase of 3% across the board for FY15. The cost would be \$45,679.00 for all programs.

There was discussion on how cities and counties have given their increases. Mr. Chafin stated that we pride ourselves in being the best RC in the state. Some felt that we need to stay competitive to keep employees from going elsewhere to obtain other employment. A salary comparison was done last year and our RC was still not competitive. When Workforce Development was taken over by the RC, those employees were given benefits. Before, they were considered contractors with no benefits.

Dean Scarborough made a motion to rework the Budget with a 3% increase and the Executive Committee review it before submitting it to the Council next month. Leslie George seconded the motion and motion carried.

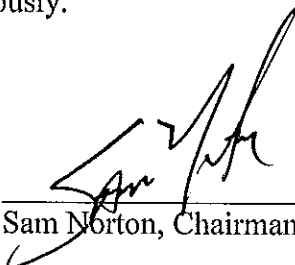
Chairman Norton thanked Mr. Chafin and the Committee for all their time and hard work on the Budget and Audit services.

#### Annual Work Program Update

Adam Hazell, Director of Planning informed the Executive Committee that the Annual Work Program Update needs to be submitted to DCA. This is recognition of projects that the RC is taking on above and beyond the contractual obligation to the State. These are projects that have been submitted to us to date. We have the right to amend this list at any time. Next year, Mr. Hazell hopes this will fall in line with the CEDS calendar for review. This Update must be submitted to DCA for their review and consideration. Motion to approve and recommend to the Council was made by Bill Chafin and seconded by Rex Farmer. Motion passed unanimously.

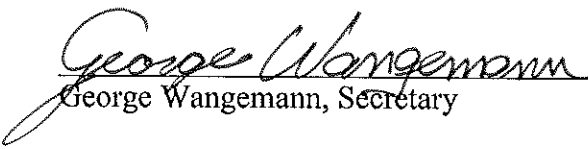
#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Leslie George to recess to the Council Meeting at 5:25 pm. Motion was seconded by Jim Conley and passed unanimously.



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Sam Norton, Chairman



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George Wangemann, Secretary